

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A tape cartridge which can be inserted into a tape drive having an opening member which can operatively engage with the tape cartridge at a time when the tape cartridge is inserted, the tape cartridge comprising:

a case which is hollow, and which is formed of a synthetic resin, and which has an upper case and a lower case each formed from a base plate and a peripheral wall, and which is formed by the peripheral walls abutting one another, the case having a front wall portion facing in a cartridge insertion direction, a side wall portion substantially parallel to the cartridge insertion direction, and an inclined wall portion connecting the front wall portion and the side wall portion and inclined with respect to the cartridge insertion direction;

a tape access opening provided at the inclined wall portion of the case; and

a ridge line portion extending in a vertical direction and formed at an intersection of the front wall portion of the case and the inclined wall portion of the case,

wherein a draft of the ridge line portion at the upper case and a draft of the ridge line portion ~~at the lower case are both 1° or less~~ are both smaller than a draft of the front wall portion and a draft of the inclined wall portion at the sides of the ridge line portion.

2. (original) The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising:  
  
a reel which is accommodated in the case, and on which a tape is wound so as to be able to be freely drawn out; and  
  
a leader pin attached to a free end of the tape.

3. (original) The tape cartridge of claim 2, further comprising a pin holding structure for releasably holding the leader pin at a predetermined holding position within the case, such that the leader pin spans between the upper case and the lower case.

4. (original) The tape cartridge of claim 3, wherein the holding position is in a vicinity of the tape access opening with the case.

5. (original) The tape cartridge of claim 3, wherein the pin holding structure has an elastic member which has a free end portion and a proximal portion, and which is for pushing the leader pin by the free end portion and positioning the leader pin at the holding position.

6. (currently amended): A tape cartridge which can be inserted into a tape drive having an opening member which can operatively engage with the tape cartridge at a time when the tape cartridge is inserted, the tape cartridge comprising:

a case which is hollow, and which is formed of a synthetic resin, and which has an upper case and a lower case each formed from a base plate and a peripheral wall, and which is formed by the peripheral walls abutting one another, the case having a front wall portion facing in a

cartridge insertion direction, a side wall portion substantially parallel to the cartridge insertion direction, and an inclined wall portion connecting the front wall portion and the side wall portion and inclined with respect to the cartridge insertion direction;

a tape access opening provided at the inclined wall portion of the case;

a ridge line portion extending in a vertical direction and formed at an intersection of the front wall portion of the case and the inclined wall portion of the case; and

a shielding member which can move reciprocatingly along an arc-shaped path of movement between a closing position for closing the tape access opening and an opening position for opening the tape access opening,

wherein a draft of the ridge line portion at the upper case and a draft of the ridge line portion at the lower case are both 1° or less~~The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a shielding member which can move reciprocatingly along an arc-shaped path of movement between a closing position for closing the tape access opening and an opening position for opening the tape access opening.~~

7. (original) The tape cartridge of claim 6, further comprising an urging element which always urges the shielding member toward the closing position.

8. (original) The tape cartridge of claim 6, further comprising an operation portion provided at the shielding member, and due to the tape cartridge being inserted, the operation portion can move the shielding member toward the opening position while engaging with the opening member of the tape drive.

9. (original) The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the case is substantially rectangular in plan view.

10. (original) The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein a plurality of joining portions for joining the upper case and the lower case are provided at the case.

11. (currently amended): A tape drive into which a tape cartridge can be inserted, and which carries out at least one of reading of data and writing of data, the tape cartridge having:

a case which is hollow, and which is formed of a synthetic resin, and which has an upper case and a lower case each formed from a base plate and a peripheral wall, and which is formed by the peripheral walls abutting one another, the case having a front wall portion facing in a cartridge insertion direction, a side wall portion substantially parallel to the cartridge insertion direction, and an inclined wall portion connecting the front wall portion and the side wall portion and inclined with respect to the cartridge insertion direction;

a tape access opening provided at the inclined wall portion of the case; and

a ridge line portion extending in a vertical direction and formed at an intersection of the front wall portion of the case and the inclined wall portion of the case,

wherein a draft of the ridge line portion at the upper case and a draft of the ridge line portion ~~at the lower case are both 1° or less, and~~ are both smaller than a draft of the front wall portion and a draft of the inclined wall portion at the sides of the ridge line portion, and

the tape drive has an opening member which can operatively engage with the tape cartridge at a time when the tape cartridge is inserted.

12. (currently amended): A tape drive into which a tape cartridge can be inserted, and which carries out at least one of reading of data and writing of data, the tape cartridge having:

a case which is hollow, and which is formed of a synthetic resin, and which has an upper case and a lower case each formed from a base plate and a peripheral wall, and which is formed by the peripheral walls abutting one another, the case having a front wall portion facing in a cartridge insertion direction, a side wall portion substantially parallel to the cartridge insertion direction, and an inclined wall portion connecting the front wall portion and the side wall portion and inclined with respect to the cartridge insertion direction;

a tape access opening provided at the inclined wall portion of the case; and

a ridge line portion extending in a vertical direction and formed at an intersection of the front wall portion of the case and the inclined wall portion of the case,

wherein a draft of the ridge line portion at the upper case and a draft of the ridge line portion at the lower case are both 1° or less, and

the tape drive has an opening member which can operatively engage with the tape cartridge at a time when the tape cartridge is inserted~~The tape drive of claim 11,~~

wherein the tape cartridge has a shielding member which can move reciprocatingly along an arc-shaped path of movement between a closing position for closing the tape access opening and an opening position for opening the tape access opening, and

at the time when the tape cartridge is inserted, the opening member engages with the shielding member and can move the shielding member toward the opening position.

13. (original) The tape drive of claim 11, wherein the opening member extends in a direction traversing the tape cartridge insertion direction.

14. (currently amended): A tape drive into which a tape cartridge can be inserted, and which carries out at least one of reading of data and writing of data, the tape cartridge having:  
a case which is hollow, and which is formed of a synthetic resin, and which has an upper case and a lower case each formed from a base plate and a peripheral wall, and which is formed by the peripheral walls abutting one another, the case having a front wall portion facing in a cartridge insertion direction, a side wall portion substantially parallel to the cartridge insertion direction, and an inclined wall portion connecting the front wall portion and the side wall portion and inclined with respect to the cartridge insertion direction;  
a tape access opening provided at the inclined wall portion of the case; and  
a ridge line portion extending in a vertical direction and formed at an intersection of the front wall portion of the case and the inclined wall portion of the case,  
wherein a draft of the ridge line portion at the upper case and a draft of the ridge line portion at the lower case are both 1° or less,  
the tape drive has an opening member which can operatively engage with the tape cartridge at a time when the tape cartridge is inserted~~The tape drive of claim 11, and~~

wherein the opening member enters into the case at the time when the tape cartridge is inserted.

15. (currently amended) The tape drive of claim 14, wherein the opening member enters ~~in from~~into a slit provided at the case.

16. (new): The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the draft of the front wall portion and the draft of the inclined wall portion are both in a range of 1° to 2°.

17. (new): The tape drive of claim 11, wherein the draft of the front wall portion and the draft of the inclined wall portion are both in a range of 1° to 2°.